

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A content distribution system comprising:

a seller information processing apparatus;

a buyer information processing apparatus;

an escrow agent computer configured for receiving escrow processing information from an escrow system management server, for confirming transfer of money from an account of a buyer to an escrow agent, for generating a money transfer completion message upon the confirming, and for sending the money transfer completion message; and

a content distribution intermediary system connected to the seller information processing apparatus, the buyer information processing apparatus, a physical distribution agent, and the escrow agent computer, wherein the content distribution intermediary system comprises, the content distribution intermediary system receiving the money transfer completion message sent from the escrow agent computer:

input means for receiving first media content information from the seller information processing apparatus;

recording means for recording the first media content information;

output means for outputting the first media content information to the buyer information processing apparatus;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus;

settlement means for settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information; and

an the escrow system management server for generating the escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract for the escrow agent computer and transmitting the escrow processing information to the escrow agent computer, wherein the escrow processing information comprises title of the media content, name of buyer, name of seller, price, and date;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive a delivery status of the media content from a the physical distribution agent and to receive a the money transfer completion message from the escrow agent; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record the delivery status of the media content and the money transfer completion message.

2. (Previously Presented) A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the settlement means is further operable to prepare and store a document associated with the purchase-and-sale contract.

3. (Previously Presented) A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating a condition of the media content desired by the buyer from the buyer information processing

apparatus; wherein the content distribution intermediary further comprises search means for retrieving media content information satisfying the condition; and

wherein the output means is further operable to provide the retrieved media content information to the buyer information processing apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the seller of the media content from the seller information processing apparatus; wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the buyer of the media content from the buyer information processing apparatus; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record the third information indicating the seller of the media content and the information indicating the buyer of the media content.

5. (Previously Presented) A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the rights of the media content to be sold and purchased between the seller and the buyer of the media content comprise at least part of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright, or all the rights concerning the media content.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
receiving, by a content distribution intermediary system comprising a computer,
first media content information via a network from a seller information processing apparatus;

recording, by the computer, the first media content information;

outputting, by the computer, the first media content information to a buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

receiving, by the computer, second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

settling, by the computer, a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information;

generating, by the computer, escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract for the media content for processing by an escrow agent, wherein the escrow processing information comprises title of the media content, name of buyer, name of seller, price, and date;

transmitting, by the computer, the escrow processing information to the escrow agent, wherein the escrow agent tracks status of payment for the media content based on the escrow processing information and generates a money transfer completion message based on the status and the escrow processing information;

receiving, by the computer, a delivery status of the media content from a physical distribution agent;

receiving, by the computer, the money transfer completion message from the escrow agent; and

recording, by the computer, information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

7. (Currently Amended) A transaction method for settling a transaction of media content, comprising:

receiving, by a content distribution intermediary system comprising a computer, media content information identifying media content to be sold by a seller, and media content rights information;

receiving, by the computer, request information from a buyer, the request information comprising a name of the media content the buyer wants to acquire and information about how the buyer wants to use the media content;

settling, by the computer, the transaction of the media content generated between the seller and the buyer by attaching rights indicated by media content rights information to the identified media content;

selling, by the computer, the identified media content and the attached rights to the seller;

generating, by the computer, escrow processing information about the transaction related to the media content for processing by an escrow agent, wherein the escrow processing information comprises title of the media content, name of buyer, name of seller, price, and date;

transmitting, by the computer, the escrow processing information to the escrow agent, wherein the escrow agent tracks status of payment for the media content based on the escrow processing information; and

recording, by the computer, information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

8. (Previously Presented) A transaction method according to claim 7, wherein the media content rights information comprises any one of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright of the content.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for use in an information processing intermediary system which is connected via a network to at least one seller information processing apparatus, to at least one buyer information processing apparatus, and to an escrow agent computer, the method comprising:

receiving, by a computer, first media content information from the seller information processing apparatus;

registering, by the computer, the first media content information;

receiving, by the computer, second media content information, specifying predetermined media content selected from the registered media content and the seller of the media content, from, the buyer information processing apparatus;

generating, by the computer, a first web page which is viewable by the buyer information processing apparatus, and which displays a message input from the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which receives a message from the buyer to be sent to the seller;

generating, by the computer, a second web page which is viewable by the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which displays a message input from the buyer information processing apparatus outputting the second media content information, and which receives a message from the seller to be sent to the buyer;

maintaining, by the computer, a first site map indicating associations between web pages linked to the first web page, wherein the buyer information processing apparatus jumps to a different web page based on an operation performed on the first web page and the first site map;

controlling, by the computer, the posting of the first web page and the second web page;

acquiring, by the computer, the messages input into the first web page and the second web page;

determining, by the computer, whether the buyer information processing apparatus requested a clip representative of the media content;

generating, by the computer, data to output the clip through the first web page, when the clip is requested; and

sending, by the computer, the clip to the buyer information processing apparatus.

10 - 15. (Cancelled)